

STRATEGIC PLAN
for the
STATE MINING AND
GEOLOGY BOARD



Department of Conservation
Resources Agency

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STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN

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STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN

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1. FORWARD

STRATEGIC PLAN for the STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

Development of this Strategic Plan for the State Mining and Geology Board is the charge of the Board's Policy Committee. The Committee conducts public meetings specifically for the purpose of receiving comments and ideas for incorporation into the Strategic Plan. The Committee continues to review and revise the Strategic Plan to reflect task accomplishments, and to incorporate new challenges to be addressed.

The Strategic Plan presents a Mission Statement, supported by six Goals. Each of the Goals is sustained by a list of Strategies for achieving those Goals. The Strategies in turn require specific Objectives (tasks) that must be performed.

It is the intent of the Board that this Strategic Plan be a dynamic document, where new Objectives are added as earlier ones are achieved. Ultimately, with the passage of time and changing of responsibilities, the Plan's Goals and even the Board's Mission may change. The Board intends this Plan to be a Working Document, by which the Board's decisions will be guided.

THE STATE MINING & GEOLOGY BOARD

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the State Mining and Geology Board is to represent the State's interest in the development, utilization and conservation of mineral resources; reclamation of mined lands; development and dissemination of geologic and seismic hazard information; and to provide a forum for public redress."

2. PROGRAM OVERVIEWS

STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

The State Mining and Geology Board was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees. Its purpose was to oversee the activities of the State Mineralogist and the Bureau of Mines (now the Division of Mines and Geology), which were created five years earlier. Today's Board is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate, for four-year terms. The Board operates within the Department of Conservation, and is granted certain autonomous responsibilities and obligations under several statutes. The Board's general authority is granted under Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 660-678. Specifically, PRC Section 662(b) requires all Board members to "represent the general public interest". The Board serves as a regulatory, policy and appeals body representing the State's interests in geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, conservation of mineral resources and reclamation of lands following surface mining activities.

ALQUIST-PRIOLO EARTHQUAKE FAULT ZONING ACT

Under this Act, the Board is authorized to represent the State's interests in establishing professional guidelines and standards for geological and geophysical investigations and reports produced by the Division of Mines and Geology, public sector agencies, and private practitioners. The Board, also, is authorized to develop specific criteria through regulations that shall be used by affected lead agencies in complying with the provisions of the Act so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

This Act (Public Resources Code, Chapter 7.5, Section 2621 through Section 2630) is intended to provide policies and criteria to assist cities, counties and state agencies in the exercise of their responsibilities to prohibit the location of developments and structures for human occupancy across the trace of active faults as defined by the Board. Further, it is the intent of this Act to provide the citizens of the State with increased safety and to minimize the loss of life during and immediately following earthquakes by facilitating seismic retrofitting to strengthen buildings, including historical buildings, against ground shaking.

PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS:

1. City, County and State agencies having jurisdictions over zoning ordinances, building codes, and general plan developments
2. Land developers and contractors
3. Division of Mines and Geology / Department of Conservation
4. Professional geological, geophysical, and engineering consulting community
5. General public

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS:

1. Provide policies and criteria governing the exercise of city, county and State agency responsibilities to prohibit the location of developments and structures for human occupancy across the trace of active faults
2. Provide specific guidelines for evaluating the hazards of surface fault rupture
3. Provide for the public review and comment on new and revised Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps produced by the State Geologist, and to convey and recommend those comments to the State Geologist for incorporation into the maps.

SEISMIC HAZARDS MAPPING ACT

Under this Act, the Board is authorized to provide policy and guidance through regulations for a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program to assist cities, counties, and state agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction or other ground failure, landslides and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes, including tsunami and seiche threats.

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (Public Resources Code Chapter 7.8, Section 2690 through Section 2699.6) establishes the authority to provide programs to identify and map seismic hazard zones in the State in order for cities and counties to adequately prepare the safety element of their general plans and to encourage land use management policies and regulations to reduce and mitigate those hazards so as to protect public health and safety.

PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS:

1. City, County and State agencies having jurisdictions over zoning ordinances, building codes, and general plan developments
2. Land developers and contractors
3. Division of Mines and Geology
4. Professional geological, geophysical, and engineering consulting community and associations.
5. General Public

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS:

1. Provide policies and criteria governing the exercise of City, County and State agency responsibilities for protecting the public's health and safety from seismic hazards through informed land use decisions
2. Provide guidelines for the prioritized preparation of maps of seismic hazard zones in the State
3. Provide guidelines and standards through regulation for evaluating seismic hazards and recommending mitigation measures
4. Provide for the public review and comment on new and revised Seismic Hazard Maps produced by the State Geologist, and to convey and recommend those comments to the State Geologist for incorporation into the maps.
5. To provide a mechanism for timely revisions of geologic hazard maps

SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1975

The of extraction minerals in a responsible manner is essential to the continued economic well-being of the State and to the needs of society, and the thoughtful reclamation of mined lands is necessary to prevent or minimize adverse effects on the environment and to protect the public health and safety.

Under these statutes, the Board is authorized to represent the State's interests in the development, utilization, and conservation of the State's mineral resources, the reclamation of mined lands, and federal matters pertaining to surface mining within the State.

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA, Public Resources Code Sections 2710-2793) provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy with the regulation of surface mining operations to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA, also, encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the State's mineral resources. (Public Resources Section 2207 provides for the annual reporting requirements of this statute, under which the Board also is granted authority and obligations).

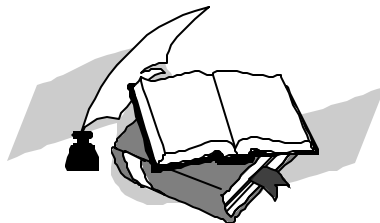
PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS:

1. Approximately 130 "Lead Agencies" (counties and cities), with authority over surface mining operations within their jurisdictions
2. Approximately 1,400 reporting surface mining operations within the State
3. Department of Conservation's Office of Mine Reclamation

4. Department of Conservation's Division of Mines and Geology
5. General Public

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS:

1. Establish mining and reclamation standards and policies and provide guidance and direction to lead agencies, mine operators, the Division of Mines and Geology, the Office of Mine Reclamation, and other agencies and organizations (Federal, State, local)
2. Represent the interests of the State in SMARA matters that are appealed to the Board for action
3. Develop regulations to implement the statutes statewide so as to ensure an evenhanded application of the law throughout an environmentally and economically diverse state
4. Minimize residual hazards from surface mining operations to the public health and safety
5. Encourage the production and conservation of the State's mineral resources, while establishing standards for the protection and preservation of the State's recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, and aesthetic features



3. GOALS, STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES

Goals represent what the Board wants to accomplish. They provide the basis for decisions about the nature, scope and priority of the projects and activities the Board undertakes. Incorporating both its statutory mandates and external and internal stakeholder comments, the Board has developed the following six important goals.

GOAL I MINERAL RESOURCES

The prudent and sensible development, utilization, and conservation of the State's mineral resources

GOAL II RECLAMATION OF MINED LANDS

The reclamation of mined lands to a usable condition that is readily adaptable for alternative land uses

GOAL III GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARDS

Develop geologic and seismic hazard information programs and policies for the benefit of the Public

GOAL IV FORUM FOR PUBLIC REDRESS

Provide a direct forum for public participation in the development of policies and for appeals of agency actions

GOAL V EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Develop and promote public education and outreach programs regarding the State's geology and mineral resources, and the Board's services

GOAL VI INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Expand the Board's inter-governmental and inter-agency cooperation and communications

On the following pages each goal is listed separately, along with the strategies and objectives that will assist the Board to achieve the goal. *Strategies* are a stated direction or action that provides a short-term approach to achieving the goal. *Objectives* are observable and tangible targets measured in terms of time, quality, or quantity.

**GOAL I. THE PRUDENT AND SENSIBLE DEVELOPMENT,
UTILIZATION, AND CONSERVATION OF THE STATE'S
MINERAL RESOURCES**

<p>The State Mining and Geology Board seeks to advance the prudent and sensible development, utilization, and conservation of the State's valuable mineral resources so that those resources will be available for use by future generations</p>
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STRATEGY 1.1 Expedite the identification of the State's mineral resources

STRATEGY 1.2 Establish mineral resources as a priority land use

STRATEGY 1.3 Encourage the wise utilization of mineral resources in anticipation of the State's future needs

OBJECTIVES:

- 1-a. Advance mineral land classification and designation programs to increase their effectiveness. Identify new areas that meet the criteria for designation as having regionally significant mineral resources. Update currently designated areas to account for land use changes.
- 1-b. Develop a "Model Guideline Mineral Resource Management Policy" for local governments to reflect regional requirements
- 1-c. Support the development of mineral demand forecast/future needs assessments for the State
- 1-d. Develop a method of calculating realistic reserves / resources estimates that recognize the technical and economic limitations of surface mining

**GOAL II. THE RECLAMATION OF MINED LANDS TO A
USABLE CONDITION THAT IS READILY ADAPTABLE
FOR ALTERNATIVE LAND USES**

The State Mining and Geology Board recognizes that the prudent mining of California's valuable mineral resources is essential to the economic well being of the State and the needs of the society, as is the protection and subsequent beneficial use of mined and reclaimed lands and the elimination of residual hazards to the public health.

- STRATEGY 2.1 Promote the full compliance of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975**
- STRATEGY 2.2 Support the State's efforts to address abandoned mines issues**
- STRATEGY 2.3 Work to resolve conflicts between Federal and State mined lands reclamation policies**
- STRATEGY 2.4 Define those areas of applicability of SMARA to instream mining activities**
- STRATEGY 2.5 Define those areas of applicability of SMARA to marine dredging activities**

OBJECTIVES:

- 2-a. Develop a list of examples of successfully reclaimed surface mine sites available to operators and lead agencies
- 2-b. Develop and recommend legislation and regulation to improve SMARA effectiveness
- 2-c. Develop policies for prioritizing the order of reclamation of abandoned mines
- 2-d. Define and develop a strategy for assessment and remediation of abandoned mines
- 2-e. Clarify SMARA requirements through the regulatory process

**GOAL III. DEVELOP GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARD INFORMATION
PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR THE
BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC**

California is the most geologically diverse and seismically active state in the United States. The State Mining and Geology Board seeks to reduce the impacts of geologic and seismic hazards by promoting the implementation of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act both through the regulatory process and by encouraging public awareness of these hazards.

- STRATEGY 3.1** Promote the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act
- STRATEGY 3.2** Promote the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act
- STRATEGY 3.3** Assist the Director in the development and prioritization of programs, especially relating to seismic hazards mapping, Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zoning, and landslide mapping
- STRATEGY 3.4** Promote all forms of information access for lead agencies, professionals and the general public
- STRATEGY 3.5** Identify and develop stable funding sources for the dissemination of geologic and seismic information

OBJECTIVES:

- 3-a. Develop and recommend legislation and regulations to improve the effectiveness of the Acts
- 3-b. Develop public information brochure containing advice where the public may obtain data on geologic and seismic hazards, mineral resources and mines, geologic maps, etc.
- 3-c. Identify local policies and mapping required as part of the Hazards Management Element of general plans

**GOAL IV. PROVIDE A DIRECT FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND FOR APPEALS OF
AGENCY ACTIONS**

Statute requires the State Mining and Geology Board to “represent the general public interest”. The Board serves as a regulatory, policy and appeals body representing the State’s interests in geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, the conservation of mineral resources, and the reclamation of mined lands.

- STRATEGY 4.1** **Ensure consistent and equitable application of the laws under the Board’s jurisdiction**
- STRATEGY 4.2** **Work cooperatively with local agencies, businesses and the public on matters within the Board’s jurisdiction**
- STRATEGY 4.3** **Provide an impartial and expeditious appeals process for those seeking redress of grievances**

OBJECTIVES:

- 4-a. Process and respond expeditiously to public inquiries for policy information and appeals procedures
- 4-b. Review and revise current regulatory appeals procedures
- 4.c. Streamline review method so as to provide quicker decisions on appeals without shortchanging affected parties

**GOAL V. *DEVELOP AND PROMOTE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND
OUTREACH PROGRAMS REGARDING THE STATE'S
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES,
AND THE BOARD'S SERVICES***

The State Mining and Geology Board is authorized in statute to provide for the development of information on the State's geology, mineralogy, and seismology for the public. Since the Board represents the interests of the general public, it is necessary for the public to be aware of the services afforded by the Board.

STRATEGY 5.1 Promote the use and development of educational materials regarding the State's geological diversity, seismic hazards, and mineral resources

STRATEGY 5.2 Develop outreach programs to public agencies, businesses, and educational institutions

OBJECTIVES:

- 5-a. Develop two-way communication links to public stakeholders for receiving and updating educational materials
- 5-b. Develop and publish topical educational materials for general distribution in cooperation with the Department

GOAL VI. *EXPAND THE BOARD'S INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATIONS*

Many of the areas of responsibility of the State Mining and Geology Board have an impact on, and are impacted by, the workings of other state and federal agencies. The Board believes that for its programs to operate efficiently and effectively with the programs of others, it should work cooperatively with them in program development and implementation.

- STRATEGY 6.1** Clarify roles and relationships of the Board vis-à-vis the Department of Conservation and other related agencies
- STRATEGY 6.2** Promote increased communications with other state and federal government agencies, boards, and commissions
- STRATEGY 6.3** Coordinate policy developments with other state government agencies, boards and commissions
- STRATEGY 6.4** Work cooperatively with local and State agencies on matters within the Board's jurisdiction
- STRATEGY 6.5** Promote all forms of information access for public agencies
- STRATEGY 6.6** Continuously update local agencies regarding their roles in implementing State policies regarding conservation, reclamation, and geologic hazards

OBJECTIVES:

- 6-a. Define the internal workings relationships and responsibilities between the Board and the Department of Conservation
- 6-b. Identify other government agency stakeholders and define their relationship to the Board
- 6-c. Define areas of conflict between federal and state applications of SMARA and establish a conflict resolution team to address areas of non-compatibility